

INSIGHTS

Labor Market Information

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Economic Indicators

November 2012

	United States	SC
Labor Force	155,291,000	2,141,330
Employed	143,262,000	1,964,377
Unemployed	12,029,000	176,953
Unemployment Rate	7.7%	8.3%

Average Hours & Earnings

	United States	SC
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 976.02	\$ 731.40
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.6	42.4
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$ 24.04	\$ 17.25

Top Job Growth by MSA

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Spartanburg MSA	0.00%	3.62%
Florence MSA	0.47%	2.77%
Charleston MSA	0.40%	2.02%
Sumter MSA	0.27%	1.37%

Employment to Population Ratio

	2012	2011
U.S. Population Ratio	58.7%	58.5%
S.C. Population Ratio	53.7%	53.7%

Labor Force Participation Rate

	Nov.	Oct.	% Change
U.S. Participation Rate	63.6%	63.8%	-0.2%
S.C. Participation Rate	58.5%	58.5%	0.0%

United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	1.8%
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Highlights

- Unemployment rate fell for fourth consecutive month
- Lowest unemployment rate since late 2008
- Overall payroll employment gained 7,100
- Retail Trade employment drove the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities sector up by 5,500
- Online job advertisements 6,000 higher than a year ago

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[S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Employment
9,758



Unemployment
6,434



Unemployment
Rate 0.3%



Unemployment Rate Continues to Fall

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate estimate fell for the fourth consecutive month, dropping from 8.6 percent in October to 8.3 percent in November. This was the lowest level since the fourth quarter of 2008. The estimated number of unemployed decreased by 6,434 to 176,953, while the number of employed (1,964,377) grew for the third consecutive month. During the month, the state's overall labor force rose by 3,324 to 2,141,330.

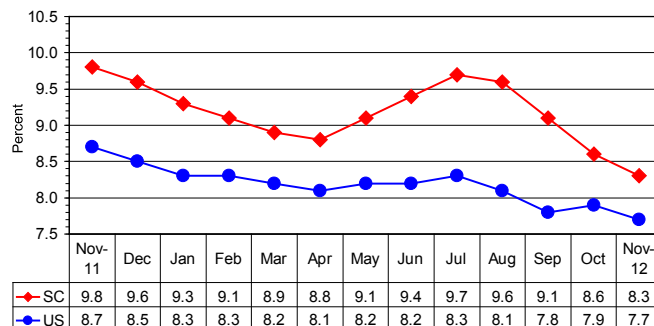
Since November 2011, nearly 18,000 South Carolinians left the labor force, while another 17,100 found work. The number of unemployed people decreased by approximately 35,000 as the unemployment rate declined by 1.5 percentage points over the year.

In November, the national unemployment rate edged down from 7.9 percent in October to 7.7 percent, primarily driven by a decrease of 350,000 in the labor force.

Going forward, demand in the Health Care industry looks to remain strong, along with continued advances in Manufacturing, which will boost the outlook for businesses supporting this sector as well.

Retail hiring is presently close to its peak for the holiday season, and January faces seasonal layoffs as retail sales diminish. Toward late February and into March, as warmer weather draws visitors, the state's coastal areas will see the return of tourists, enjoying the golf courses and beaches, boding well for the state's Leisure and Hospitality industry. Overall, South Carolina is experiencing a gradual, but steady growth, and that is encouraging for the journey ahead.

U.S. & S.C. Unemployment Rates
November 2011 through November 2012



Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2011 benchmark.

November Unemployment Rates by County

State Unemployment Rates

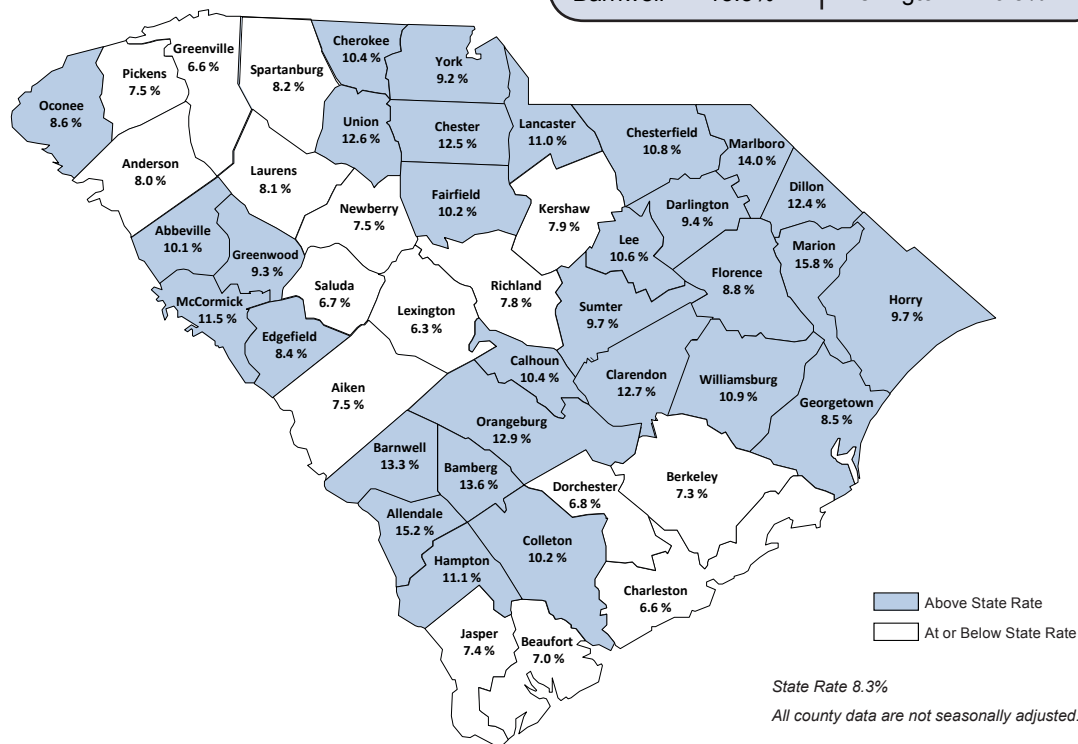
Nevada	10.8
Rhode Island	10.4
California	9.8
New Jersey	9.6
North Carolina	9.1
Michigan	8.9
Connecticut	8.8
Illinois	8.7
Georgia	8.5
Mississippi	8.5
D.C.	8.4
Oregon	8.4
New York	8.3
South Carolina	8.3
Kentucky	8.2
Florida	8.1
Indiana	8.0
Arizona	7.8
Pennsylvania	7.8
Washington	7.8
Colorado	7.7
United States	7.7
Tennessee	7.6
Alabama	7.5
West Virginia	7.3
Maine	7.2
Arkansas	7.0
Alaska	6.8
Idaho	6.8
Ohio	6.8
Delaware	6.7
Missouri	6.7
Wisconsin	6.7
Maryland	6.6
Massachusetts	6.6
New Mexico	6.2
Texas	6.2
Louisiana	5.8
Montana	5.8
Minnesota	5.7
New Hampshire	5.6
Virginia	5.6
Kansas	5.4
Hawaii	5.3
Oklahoma	5.2
Vermont	5.2
Utah	5.1
Wyoming	5.1
Iowa	4.9
South Dakota	4.4
Nebraska	3.7
North Dakota	3.1

Over the month, unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 18 counties across South Carolina. Twenty-four counties recorded rate increases and four counties had no change. The unemployment rate in Lexington County remained the lowest at 6.3 percent, and the highest rate in the state was 15.8 percent in Marion.

Since November 2011, Calhoun, Orangeburg, and Marlboro counties saw the largest unemployment rate declines. The Calhoun County rate dropped by 3.6 percentage points since last year, with Orangeburg, Marlboro, Union, and York counties decreasing in excess of 2.5 percentage points, each.

Over the year, labor force decreases were felt in 31 counties and increases in employment were reported in 34 counties. In the past twelve months, Spartanburg County continued to lead the state in employment gains (+2,720) and Aiken County experienced the largest employment decline (-1,062).

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Marion	15.8%	Dorchester	6.8%
Allendale	15.2%	Saluda	6.7%
Marlboro	14.0%	Charleston	6.6%
Bamberg	13.6%	Greenville	6.6%
Barnwell	13.3%	Lexington	6.3%



South Carolina Ranked Fourteenth of Fifty-one in November

Forty-five states and the District of Columbia recorded unemployment rate decreases and five states had no change, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. **South Carolina** was ranked 14th in the nation among all states. Forty-three states and the District of Columbia registered lower unemployment rates from a year earlier, six states experienced increases, and one state had no change. The national jobless rate, 7.7 percent, edged down from October and was 1.0 percentage point lower than in November 2011.

In November 2012, nonfarm payroll employment showed gains in 30 states and losses were reported in 20 states and the District of Columbia. The largest over-the-month increase in employment occurred in North Carolina (+30,600), followed by Florida (+24,500) and Texas (+22,100). The largest over-the-month decrease in employment occurred in New York (-33,500), followed by Indiana (-9,100) and New Jersey (-8,100). November data for New Jersey and New York reflected the impact of Hurricane Sandy, as well as underlying economic trends.

Employment Changes by County September through November 2012

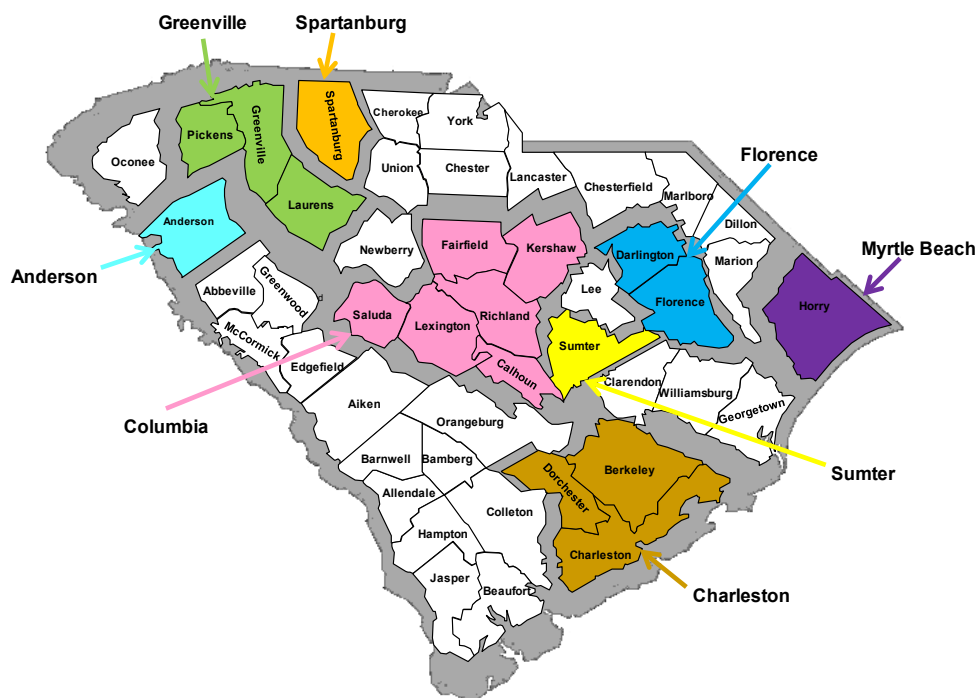
County	Employment			Net change from:	
	Nov 2012	Oct 2012	Sep 2012	Oct-Nov 2012	Sep-Oct 2012
Abbeville	9,687	9,701	9,687	-14	14
Aiken	67,981	68,135	68,089	-154	46
Allendale	2,788	2,783	2,789	5	-6
Anderson	74,667	75,072	74,363	-405	709
Bamberg	5,377	5,375	5,376	2	-1
Barnwell	7,267	7,272	7,277	-5	-5
Beaufort	60,311	60,372	60,518	-61	-146
Berkeley	77,733	78,145	78,118	-412	27
Calhoun	6,031	6,096	6,039	-65	57
Charleston	163,957	164,824	164,768	-867	56
Cherokee	22,187	22,255	22,229	-68	26
Chester	12,644	12,666	12,617	-22	49
Chesterfield	16,697	16,707	16,697	-10	10
Clarendon	10,745	10,754	10,793	-9	-39
Colleton	15,315	15,325	15,356	-10	-31
Darlington	27,760	27,876	27,728	-116	148
Dillon	11,517	11,508	11,512	9	-4
Dorchester	63,559	63,895	63,873	-336	22
Edgefield	9,995	10,018	10,011	-23	7
Fairfield	9,490	9,591	9,501	-101	90
Florence	57,300	57,541	57,235	-241	306
Georgetown	27,066	27,178	27,257	-112	-79
Greenville	208,041	209,293	206,896	-1,252	2,397
Greenwood	27,976	28,006	28,016	-30	-10
Hampton	6,857	6,857	6,868	0	-11
Horry	112,388	114,664	115,295	-2,276	-631
Jasper	9,711	9,721	9,744	-10	-23
Kershaw	27,024	27,311	27,057	-287	254
Lancaster	27,346	27,391	27,318	-45	73
Laurens	27,779	27,946	27,626	-167	320
Lee	7,203	7,221	7,214	-18	7
Lexington	123,596	124,909	123,746	-1,313	1,163
Marion	9,895	9,932	9,941	-37	-9
Marlboro	9,696	9,718	9,742	-22	-24
McCormick	2,938	2,939	2,939	-1	0
Newberry	16,787	16,835	16,841	-48	-6
Oconee	28,509	28,564	28,509	-55	55
Orangeburg	36,117	36,148	36,120	-31	28
Pickens	53,205	53,525	52,912	-320	613
Richland	166,086	167,850	166,288	-1,764	1,562
Saluda	8,313	8,401	8,323	-88	78
Spartanburg	122,970	124,167	123,424	-1,197	743
Sumter	39,484	39,721	39,981	-237	-260
Union	9,916	9,955	9,934	-39	21
Williamsburg	14,281	14,309	14,326	-28	-17
York	101,085	101,249	100,329	-164	920

Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) November 2012



Catawba WIA	9.8%
www.catawbacog.org	
Greenville WIA	6.6%
www.greenvillweb.com	
Lowcountry WIA	7.9%
www.lowcountryworkforce.org	
Lower Savannah WIA	10.0%
www.lswia.org	
Midlands WIA	7.3%
www.midlandsworkforce.org	
Pee Dee WIA	10.4%
www.peedeewib.org	
Santee-Lynches WIA	9.6%
www.slworkforcedev.org	
Trident WIA	6.8%
www.toscc.org	
Upper Savannah WIA	8.5%
www.us1stops.com	
Upstate WIA	8.8%
www.upstatewib.org	
Waccamaw WIA	9.6%
www.wrcog.org	
Worklink WIA	7.9%
www.worklinkweb.com	

Unemployment Rates by Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) November 2012



Anderson MSA	8.0%
Charleston- North Charleston- Summerville MSA	6.8%
Columbia MSA	7.4%
Florence MSA	9.0%
Greenville MSA	6.9%
Myrtle Beach- North Myrtle Beach- Conway MSA	9.7%
Spartanburg MSA	8.2%
Sumter MSA	9.7%

South Carolina Employment Trends

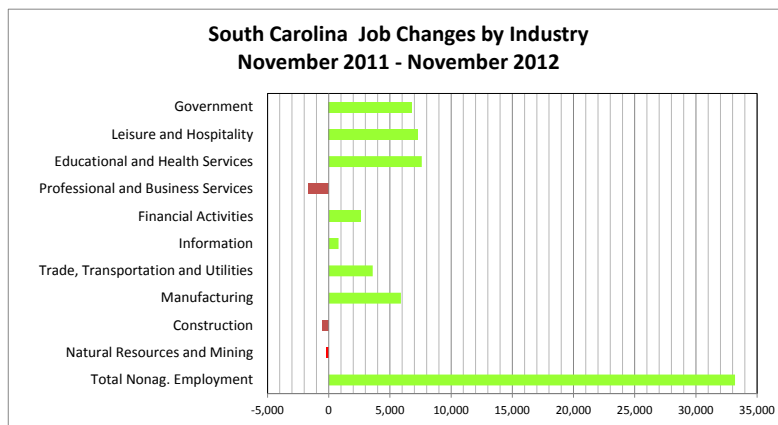
South Carolina's nonfarm jobs (not seasonally adjusted) continued to rise in November (+7,100). Trade, Transportation, and Utility jobs gained 5,500, with increases in Retail Trade, and Transportation and Warehousing. As local governments continued hiring, Government employment was boosted by 3,100. Educational and Health Services rose by 1,200 jobs as demand for Health Care and Social Assistance increased. Manufacturing grew by 1,100 jobs, reflecting gains in the Durable and Nondurable Goods subsectors. Mining and Logging remained flat during the month.

Industries which decreased during the month were: Leisure and Hospitality (-2,200) because of a lower demand for Accommodation and Food Services, and Professional and Business Services (-1,400) due to lower Administrative and Support Services needs. Construction also marked a slight decline (-700) prompted by a lower demand for Specialty Trade Contractors and building construction contractors.

Over the year, nearly all industries across the state noted improvements. Total nonfarm employment increased by 33,200. Education and Health Services (+7,600); Leisure and Hospitality (+7,300); Government (+6,800); Manufacturing (+5,900); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+3,600); Financial Activities (+2,600); and Other Services (+1,000) showed growth, along with Information which gained 800 jobs. Professional and Business Services (-1,700) and Construction (-500) experienced losses since November 2011.

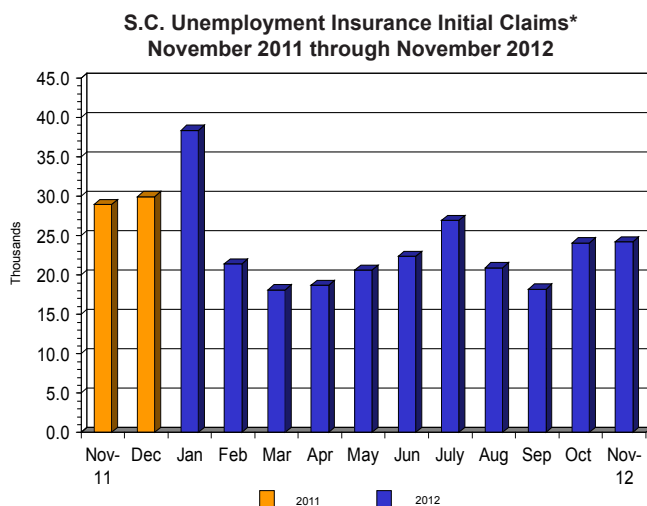
Average weekly manufacturing hours in the state decreased by 0.1 hours from October to November 2012, and hourly wages decreased by \$0.04. Over the year, hours have been up slightly (+0.5) with wages increasing by \$0.35 per hour.

Over the year, the metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) of Charleston (6,000), Spartanburg (4,300), Columbia (2,100), Florence (2,300), and Greenville (1,100) saw growth. Myrtle Beach and Sumter also had increases of 1,000 and 500, respectively. The Anderson MSA remained flat.



November Initial Unemployment Claims

South Carolina's initial unemployment claims reported a slight dip of 167 from October to November, but there was a sizeable drop of 4,755 claims from a year ago. Regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits paid were also down from the previous month by over \$1.9 million, and decreased \$15.5 million from November 2011. Over 4,100 individuals exhausted their unemployment benefits when compared to last November, while the average duration of benefits paid saw a decline of 2.2 weeks to 13.1 weeks over the past year.



SC Unemployment Activities

Total Initial Claims*	24,181
Regular UI Benefits Paid	\$18,461,577
UI Benefits Exhausted	3,127
Average Duration Benefits Paid (weeks)	13.1
Average Weekly Benefits Amount	\$249.49

* All programs

South Carolina Workforce Areas

Catawba

Chester County
Lancaster County
York County

Greenville

Greenville County *

Lowcountry

Beaufort County
Colleton County
Hampton County
Jasper County

Lower Savannah

Aiken County
Allendale County
Bamberg County
Barnwell County
Calhoun County *
Orangeburg County

Midlands

Fairfield County *
Lexington County *
Richland County *

Pee Dee

Chesterfield County
Darlington County *
Dillon County
Florence County *
Marion County
Marlboro County

Santee-Lynches

Clarendon County
Kershaw County *
Lee County
Sumter County *

Trident

Berkeley County *
Charleston County *
Dorchester County *

Upper Savannah

Abbeville County
Edgefield County
Greenwood County
Laurens County *
McCormick County
Newberry County
Saluda County *

Upstate

Cherokee County
Spartanburg County *
Union County

Waccamaw

Georgetown County
Horry County *
Williamsburg County

WorkLink

Anderson County *
Oconee County
Pickens County *

* These counties are affiliated with SC Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Labor Supply Versus Labor Demand

Online job advertisements in South Carolina showed an increase of nearly 500 ads from October to November, according to The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL) data series. Compared to a year ago, online ads in South Carolina were approximately 6,000 higher in November 2012. Across the United States, online ads saw a decrease of 15,700 in the past month.

Labor demand in the Trident Workforce Area (Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties) was the greatest with 11,701 posted advertisements. The Midlands Workforce Area (Fairfield, Lexington, and Richland counties) followed with 11,070 online advertisements. All 12 workforce areas experienced some level of decrease from the previous month, with the exception of the Upper Savannah area. Statewide, the labor supply versus demand rate dropped to 3:1.

The top five online advertisements in South Carolina for November included:

1. Registered Nurses = 2,703
2. First-Line Supervisors & Managers of Retail Sales Workers = 2,216
3. Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer = 2,159
4. Retail Salespersons = 1,578
5. Physical Therapists = 1,500

This table provides a breakdown of data and a ratio of jobseekers to job openings by workforce area.

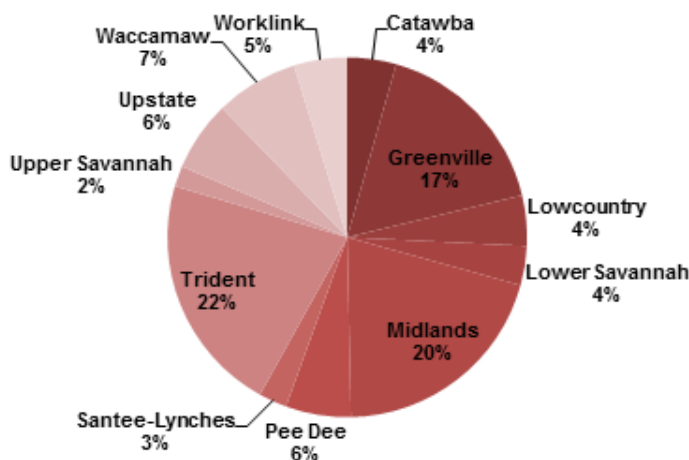
Workforce Areas	Job Openings	Jobseekers	Jobseekers Per Opening Ratio
November 2012 Data			
Catawba	2,385	15,412	7:1 ↑
Greenville	9,167	14,701	2:1 ↑
Lowcountry	2,450	7,904	3:1
Lower Savannah	1,922	14,001	7:1
Midlands	11,070	23,515	2:1
Pee Dee	3,188	15,442	5:1
Santee-Lynches	1,380	8,981	7:1 ↑
Trident	11,701	22,335	2:1
Upper Savannah	1,004	9,672	10:1
Upstate	3,432	15,039	4:1
Waccamaw	4,053	16,275	4:1
Worklink	2,602	13,492	5:1
South Carolina (SC)	56,400 (SA)	176,953 (SA)	3:1
United States (U.S.)	4,719,900 (SA)	12,000,000 (SA)	4:1 ↑

SA=Seasonally Adjusted

The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL) data series measures online jobs (rounded) from about 16,000 major Internet job sites and smaller job sites that serve niche markets and smaller geographic areas. The online series counts the number of online job advertisements, which may or may not have multiple job openings. The level of ads in print and online can change for reasons not related to overall job demand.

↑ Ratio up from previous month
↓ Ratio down from previous month

South Carolina Online Job Advertisements by Workforce Areas



Sources:

- The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® data series;
- The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics;
- The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, Labor Market Information